

For immediate release
January 16, 2004

DURAN APPOINTED USIBWC COMMISSIONER

President George W. Bush has appointed Arturo Q. Duran as United States Commissioner to the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico. As Commissioner, Duran serves as agency head of the U.S. Section (USIBWC), directing activities in twelve offices. While Duran's appointment is effective immediately, a formal swearing in ceremony is planned for the near future at USIBWC Headquarters in El Paso, Texas.

Prior to his appointment to the Commission, Duran served as General Manager of the Lower Valley Water District in Clint, Texas from 2000 until 2003. In that capacity, he oversaw all district operations related to water, wastewater, solid waste, parks and recreation, and flood control services. He also worked as a Manager and Environmental Coordinator with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While at EPA, he coordinated the development and implementation of U.S. and Mexico border infrastructure and environmental programs.

Commissioner Duran was previously appointed by President Bush to the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, an international organization created by Canada, Mexico and the United States to address regional environmental concerns.

Commissioner Duran said he was pleased to begin his official duties, "I look forward to building bridges of cooperation with Mexico to improve quality of life on the border."

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling differences that arise in their application. The Commission operates and maintains flood control levees, international storage reservoirs, diversion dams, wastewater treatment plants, and boundary monuments at various locations on the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition to its Headquarters in El Paso, Texas, the U.S. Section has offices at San Diego, California; Nogales and Yuma, Arizona; Las Cruces, New Mexico; El Paso/American Dam, Ft. Hancock, Presidio, Del Rio/Amistad Dam, Falcon Heights/Falcon Dam, and Mercedes in Texas; and Washington, DC. The USIBWC receives foreign policy guidance from the U.S. Department of State.

The International Boundary and Water Commission traces its origins to 1889. Arturo Q. Duran is only the tenth U.S. Section Commissioner in the agency's history. Commissioner Duran's biography appears below.

For more information:

Sally Spener, 915-832-4175

sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov

**UNITED STATES SECTION
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
United States and Mexico**

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

**Arturo Q. Duran
Commissioner**

Appointed U.S. Commissioner by President George W. Bush, Mr. Duran assumed his duties in January 2004. As Commissioner, Duran serves as agency head of the United States Section, headquartered in El Paso, Texas. The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling differences that arise in their application. The United States Section has eleven offices on the U.S.-Mexico border and a liaison office at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC.

Mr. Duran previously served as General Manager of the Lower Valley Water District located in El Paso County, an organization that is responsible for providing potable water, sewer, solid waste, parks and recreation, and flood control services to several communities. Mr. Duran brings over thirteen years of Environmental Management experience at the federal, state, local and international levels. Mr. Duran worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for over nine years managing environmental restoration and waste management programs where he was instrumental in advancing national environmental policies relevant to federal facilities across the nation. Mr. Duran has also worked as a private environmental consultant along the U.S. and Mexico border region. Mr. Duran has participated in the following leadership positions: U.S. Co-Chair for Health, Environment and Urban Development between the United States and Mexico; Health and Environmental Advisor for 23 Governors of the West; and Advisor and Facilitator for the Interagency Task Force for Economic Development for the Southwest Border. Recently, Mr. Duran was appointed as the Chairman from Texas to the Business Advisory Council to the National Republican Congressional Committee. Mr. Duran holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science Degrees in Chemical Engineering from the New Mexico State University located in Las Cruces, New Mexico. In 2003, he was appointed to the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America and to the Selection Committee of the North American Fund for Environmental Cooperation (NAFEC) of the CEC.

Born in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico and raised in Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas, Mr. Duran immigrated to the United States after graduating from high school. He is fully bicultural and understands the unique challenges that border communities face on a daily basis.